

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 AID-05 /102 W

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O P 151247Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8398

INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN POSITION ON BGD AGENDA ITEM IN UNGA

1. MEA SECRETARY VELLODI CALLED IN ADCM SEPTEMBER 15 TO REVIEW GOI POSITION ON BANGLADESH SUBMISSION OF AGENDA ITEM ON FARAKKA WATERS TO 31ST UNGA. VELLODI SAID THAT INDIANS WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT BEFORE THE GENERAL COMMITTEE OPPOSING INSCRIPTION OF THE BANGLADESH ITEM. WITHOUT GOING INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE INDETAIL, VELLODI SAID, GOI WOULD MAKE THE POINTS: (1) IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THE FARAKKA ISSUE IN ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUM SINCE IT WAS ONE WHICH DEPENDED UPON BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR SOLUTION; (2) BILATERAL TALKS WERE STILL IN PROCESS AND THE GOI CONTINUED TO INTEND TO TRY TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS WITH THE BGD. THE RECENT BANGLADESH DELEGATION WHICH HAD COME TO DELHI FOR DISCUSSIONS HAD ARRIVED WITH "CLOSED MINDS" AND HAD REFUSED TO GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO INDIAN PROPOSALS. ITS PURPOSE HAD ONLY BEEN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT AFTER HAVING COME TO DELHI AGAIN, BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WERE SEEN TO HAVE BEEN OF NO USE. GOI
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DID NOT ACCEPT THIS POSITION AND WAS CONFIDENT THE UN

MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT DO SO EITHER; (3) THE MANNER IN WHICH BDG HAD SOUGHT INSCRIPTION OF ITS ITEM WAS INAPPROPRIATE, PARTICULARLY IN SEEKING TO INVOKE ARTICLE XIV. VELLODI SAID IF ARTICLE XIV WERE ACCEPTED AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION IN FARAKKA, THIS WOULD OPEN THE DOOR TO ANY COUNTRY TO BRING IN ANY ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BILATERALLY. IT WOULD NOT ONLY NOT HELP, BUT SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE AND DELAY A SOLUTION.

2. VELLODI SAID THAT INDIAN DELEGATION WOULD DECIDE WHAT TO DO IN PLENARY DEPENDING UPON HOW GENERAL COMMITTEE HANDLED THE QUESTION OF INSCRIPTION OF THE BGD ITEM, BUT INDIA WOULD PROBABLY OBJECT FROM THE FLOOR IF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE BANGLADESH ITEM. IN ANY EVENT, VELLODI SAID, INDIA WOULD STRONGLY RESIST ALLOCATION OF THE FARAKKA ITEM TO I COMMITTEE AS OPPOSED TO II COMMITTEE.

3. VELLODI CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT INDIA WOULD IN ANY EVENT NOT COMPLY WITH ANY UNGA RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD HAVE ANY AFFECT UPON INDIA'S USE OF GANGES WATERS FOR CALCUTTA PORT.

4. ADCM OBSERVED THAT USG HAD INFORMED BANGLADESH REPRESENTATIVES THAT IT WAS TO BE REGRETTED THAT BGD FELT IT DEPART FROM BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN SEEKING A RESOLUTION OF THE FARAKKA ISSUE, THAT USG, IN KEEPING WITH ITS GENERAL PRACTICE WOULD SUPPORT BANGLADESH'S REQUEST TO INSCRIBE ITS ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE UNGA, BUT THAT THIS WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO EVENTUAL US POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE. VELLODI ACCEPTED THAT WHILE IT WAS GENERAL USG PRACTICE TO SUPPORT REQUESTS FOR INSCRIPTION OF ITEMS ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA, HE HOPED THAT IF THE ISSUE CAME TO A VOTE IN THE GENERAL COMMITTEE, THE USG COULD ABSTAIN RATHER THAN POSITIVELY VOTING FOR THE BANGLADESH REQUEST. ADCM OFFERED VELLODI NO ENCOURAGEMENT ON THIS LATTER REQUEST, WHICH HAD ALSO BEEN MADE EARLIER BY ANOTHER MEA OFFICER (NEW DELHI 13374), BUT AGREED TO TRANSMIT IT TO DEPARTMENT AND USUN. VELLODI OBSERVED THAT INDIANS WERE MAKING SIMILAR APPROACH TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE WHICH HAD REPRESENTATIVES IN DELHI, AS WELL AS

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IN NEW YORK AND IN OTHER CAPITALS. HE SAID AMBASSADORS KAUL AND JAIPAL WOULD BE MPCING SIMILAR DEMARCHE IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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